

Rainwater tanks

→ Guide to keeping your tank safe

Rainwater tanks in Queensland have the potential to create health risks. For example, they can become breeding sites for mosquitoes if not properly maintained. Below are three important steps to make sure your tank does not become a health risk for you, your family and your community.

1. New tanks

In Queensland, all new tanks must be fitted with mosquito-proof screens and/or flap valves on every opening, including overflows.

The screens must be made of brass, copper, aluminium or stainless steel gauze, have a mesh size of 1mm or less, installed in a way that does not cause or accelerate corrosion, and stops mosquitoes passing through the openings.

Flap valves must be able to stop mosquitoes passing through the openings when they are closed.

2. Maintaining your tank

Maintaining your rainwater tank is an important responsibility. Maintenance is needed to maintain good water quality and prevent mosquitoes breeding. Recommended maintenance is provided in the table below.

Regularity	Maintenance action
3 months	Check and clean first flush device.
6 months	Check tank, mosquito-proof screens and flap valves for rips, holes and defects. Repair straight away.
6 months	Check roof and gutters for accumulated debris including leaf and other plant material. Remove all debris and prune overhanging tree branches and foliage.
6 months	Check for evidence of animal, bird or insect access. If present, identify and close access points.
2-3 years	Check inside the tank for accumulated sediment. If sludge is covering the bottom of the tank, siphon it out or completely empty the tank. Professional tank cleaners operate in many areas. Contact details can be found in telephone directories and local newspapers.

Did you know?

You can be fined up to 3 penalty units on the spot for not keeping your tank mosquito-proof.





3. Disposing of your tank

Rainwater tanks may become a major mosquito breeding site when they are no longer required or when they fall into disrepair. Disused tanks may also harbour rats and mice. Tanks that are no longer required should be drained, cut up and removed to an approved waste disposal site. Contact your local council for your nearest location.

→ Questions?

Ring your local council or visit www.health.qld.gov.au

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